

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Rightest Demonstrations in North Korea

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1. During October 1950, several anti-Communist incidents occurred in the area of Sariwon (125-45, 38-30). Around Sariwon, Changyon (125-06, 38-15), and Kwangju (125-47, 38-40), there were many rightist elements, including a fairly large number of Christians. Although these elements had been arrested in considerable numbers, when rumors arose that Sariwon was to be evacuated, rightist youth gave mass demonstrations, including the following:
 - a. A convoy of evacuees from Haeju (125-42, 38-02) was attacked between Sariwon and Chaeryong (125-37, 38-24). Some members of the convoy were killed, including the chairman of the North Korean Labor Party and the deputy chairman of the People's Committee of Hwanghae Province.
 - b. The chairman and some staff members of the NKLP of Chaeryong were killed. The deputy chairman, who barely escaped, reported that branches of the Northwest Youth Group and other rightist organizations had been formed in the town (which the UN forces had not yet entered).
 - c. In mid-October when a rightist attack in Sariwon was reported to the head of the local State Security Bureau outpost, some security police and one platoon of North Korean troops were sent to the Chaeryong River to quell the rebels. The rightist force was so strong, however, that the Communists retired without attempting any action.
 - d. On their return from this expedition, in the area between Chunghwa (125-48, 38-52) and Hukkyo (125-47, 38-48), the Communist party were greeted with ROK flags by about 100 civilians. The security police interrogated the group and shot 20 of the leaders.
2. In the Wonsan area, a group of young men who had gotten in touch with South Korean elements organized a vigilante corps and, before [] troops arrived in Wonsan, began picking up the families of Communist sympathizers. The rightist group carried on extensive underground work even when the town was full of security police and North Korean military personnel.

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6. North Koreans, including State Security personnel and Communist guerrillas, who were retreating from Pohangdong (129-22, 36-02) through the mountains were surprised to note that not only in South Korea but even north of the 38th Parallel the population were displaying ROK flags and banners. At a village between Maengsan (126-30, 39-39) and Yongwon (126-32, 39-50), mistaking the retreating North Koreans for advancing ROK troops, the villagers greeted them with ROK flags and shouts of "Mansei!" The North Koreans arrested the village leader and learned that the villagers had taken about 20 rifles from North Korean soldiers, had stationed sentries at main road junctions, and were attacking small groups of retreating soldiers. The Communists killed about 15 local leaders but departed admitting that the area was out of control and under the influence of the Youth Friendship Party of South Korea, which was directing the anti-Communist movements.

7. Before [] troops pushed northwards into the area, in mid-November some northern towns were taken over by rightist groups, partly under the Youth Friendship Party and partly under other organizations. Among the places which declared themselves as anti-Communist were Pungsan (129-45, 42-15) and Kapsan (128-17, 41-05) and the adjacent areas. Saman (128-02, 41-16), which was the place selected by the State Security office of Hyesanjin (128-11, 41-24) for their retreat, was already occupied by rightists when the security personnel reached it, and the Communists therefore had to cross over into Manchuria in order to reach Mampojin.

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8. In the mountainous areas surrounding Changjin (127-15, 40-23), there were many young men hiding from conscription into the North Korean army. In mid-November the State Security Bureau made a round-up through several villages and captured about 20 young men, who were planning to organize an anti-Communist group to be affiliated with the Northwest Youth Group. Some of these rightists were shot, but others escaped. When the State Security forces tried to find the escapees, however, they were defeated by the local population, which sheltered the youths and refused to cooperate with the Communist authorities.

9. Two boys who were trying to blow up a bridge at Oegwi (126-21, 41-08) in mid-November were arrested by the State Security Bureau. They revealed that they were part of an anti-Communist sabotage net, and all 50 members of the net were arrested. At Ghasong (126-39, 41-28), a fire in the official warehouse where rice collected as taxes in kind was stored was proved to be the work of anti-Communist underground workers. Forty members of a network were arrested in this area.

10. About 12 January 1951, approximately 800 persons who had served as police when [] forces were in control of the area attacked the town of Hwangju. They would have taken the town except that the local State Security forces were able to obtain help from units of the North Korean army which were passing through the area en route to the front. After the attack was defeated, the security police tried to restore order and arrest the instigators. There were so many anti-Communist sympathizers in the area, however, that the police were unable to make any arrests and the situation remained much disturbed.

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11. A North Korean resident who fled south in February 1951 observed many instances of anti-Communist demonstrations among the North Korean populace. His feeling about the situation was that the North Korean government had become so centralized that it had lost touch with the people, particularly the people of the lower classes and the farming communities. The loyalty of all but the privileged Communist classes had therefore been diminished, and the lower classes had even begun to oppose the government. The mass demonstrations in various parts of North Korea were a reflection of the popular dissatisfaction with the government and with Communism.

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9. About 10 December 1950, a lieutenant colonel, a captain, and a sergeant of the North Korean army, all in uniform, took a room in a civilian house near Mannojin on the Kanggye highway. They said they had been sent from Pyorha (126-34, 40-47). One of the members of the family discovered that the men were working with a machine which they kept hidden in their room and reported it to the local military authorities. An investigation by the North Korean army showed that the men had a radio and were in contact with South Korea. The two officers were captured, but the sergeant escaped.

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